representatives of ILO and UNICEF. The important recommendations made in the seminar included, inter alia, health checkup of all children attending special schools, introduction of appropriate vocational stream in the special schools, proactive role by trade unions in the elimination of child labour and effective enforcement of child labour related laws in the child labour endemic areas.

[Translation]

Shortage of Post Offices in Bihar

2163. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of post offices in the rural districts, particularly in Godda, Jamui, Banka, Devdhar and Dumka of Bihar and a demand is being made again and again to open more post offices in these districts;

(b) whether STD facility has not been provided so far in Patharganwan, Poreyahar Blocks in Godda, Chakai and Sono district headquarters etc. in Jamui district despite telephone facility already in existence there;

(c) whether effective steps have not been taken so far in this regard despite the assurance of the Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) There is no shortage of Post Offices in the rural districts of Bihar particularly in Godda, Jamui, Banka, Devdhar and Dumka. The percentage of Gram Panchayat Villages covered by Post Offices in these districts as against the national average indicates that the postal network in the Gram Pancayat Villages in these districts compares quite favourably with the national Postal network in Gram Panchayat Villages. Details are given below:

Name of District	%age of Gram Panchayat Villages with Post Offices
Godda	55.68
Jamui	71.00
Banka	70.00
Devdhar	47.00
Dumka	57.54
National	50.00 %

There is, however, demand for opening more Post Offices in these districts.

(b) STD facility has already been provided at Patharganwan, Poreyahat and Chakai. STD facility at Sono is proposed to be provided during 1997-98.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

[English]

Introduction of EMU Trains in Kharagpur-Tata Section

2164. SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the hardships being faced by the people of Kharagpur-Tata section of South Eastern Railway due to inadequate passenger services;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to introduce more EMU trains in this section;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The existing services are by and large adequately catering to the traffic on the Kharagpur-Tata section. However, there are periods of extra rush.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Operational and Resource constraints.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Expanaion of Telecom. Facilities

2165. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any irregularities have been noticed during expansion of telecommunication facilities in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last year;

(c) the number of contractors awarded contracts in Himachal Pradesh; and

(d) the total amount spent on laying of telephone cables during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some irregularities in laying of optical fibre cables at lesser depth than specified have been noticed during Departmental inspection in certain segments of 14 route lengths.

(c) A total of 226 contractors were awarded the cable laying contracts.

(d) A total of Rs. 666.17 lakhs was spent on these works during the last year.

[English]

Alliance Air Subsidiary of IA

2166. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: